

May 17, 2021

The Honorable Tim Walz
Governor
130 State Capitol
75 Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Walz:

When the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the United States last year, Congress responded by enacting a weekly unemployment insurance (UI) bonus (\$300 per week) for individuals who found themselves out of work due to mandatory stay at home orders and statewide lockdowns. This aid was intended to be temporary and expire when a vaccine became readily available.

With over 100 million Americans now fully vaccinated, and positive case numbers dropping by the day, it is well past time for you to relinquish your emergency powers, end arbitrary decrees for masks and capacity limits, and allow the economy to roar back to life. Small businesses across Minnesota are desperately seeking workers but cannot compete with these federal payments.

The most recent jobs report made it clear that the bonus is prohibiting our economy from reaching its full potential. We urge you to follow the lead of the 14 other states, including neighbors Iowa and North Dakota, that have announced they are no longer participating in the federal UI bonus.

The Biden Administration anticipated adding nearly 1 million jobs and a drop in unemployment in April, however, the actual numbers fell far short – adding only 266,000 jobs while unemployment rose to 6.1 percent. Approximately 40 percent of unemployed individuals earn more at home than they did from working, a direct result of the government paying people to stay home and not work, in spite of the science saying it is safe to do so.

It is time to get Minnesotans back to work by not paying them to stay home. This is an opportunity to begin the economic recovery that will save small businesses from closing their doors. We urge you to take the necessary steps to end the federal UI bonus in Minnesota and get people back to work.

Sincerely,



Jim Hagedorn
Member of Congress



Tom Emmer
Member of Congress



Pete Stauber
Member of Congress



Michelle Fischbach
Member of Congress